



One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, I have been a longstanding advocate of the crucial role that career U.S. diplomats play in safeguarding our nation and advancing American interests and values. As a result, I was concerned by recent reports that senior White House staff, including White House Senior Advisor Jared Kushner, sidelined Embassy personnel during the planning and conducting of sensitive meetings in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia on or about February 25-29, 2019 (the "February 2019 Trip"). U.S. government resources are expended to support embassies in countries around the world to aid in the planning and execution of U.S. foreign policy, and an official visit to the Middle East by a senior White House aide would presumably bear meaningfully on the conduct of U.S. foreign policy in that region.

Accordingly, I seek the following, in order to better understand whether and how the State Department's expertise is being appropriately harnessed to conduct foreign policy:

Briefing

A briefing to be held **no later than Friday, April 5** on the planning, staffing, content, and scheduling of the February 2019 Trip. This includes, but is not limited to, meetings between Senior White House Officials and Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman in Riyadh.

The briefing should also provide details of any and all foreign trips or overseas meetings between Senior White House Officials and foreign leaders in the Middle East.

Finally, the briefing should address standard protocols for coordination between the State Department, the National Security Council, Post, and any other U.S. government office independently tasked with conducting diplomacy in the region.

Documents

In addition to this briefing, the Department should produce, **no later than Friday, April 5**, complete and unredacted copies of:

- Plane manifests for the February 2019 Trip;
- E-Country Clearance records for each member of the delegation;
- Invoices and expense reports, including but not limited to hotel bills, for the February 2019 Trip;
- Any and all records referring or relating in any way to preparations for, State Department officials' participation in, or providing readouts or summaries of any aspect of the February 2019 Trip;
- Any and all emails sent or received by Brian Hook relating in any way to the February 2019 Trip;
- Any and all records, including handwritten notes, related to any and all meetings attended by Mr. Hook, or anyone other State Department official who was a member of the US delegation during the February 2019 Trip, as required by the Federal Records Act.

Relevant offices for this request include NEA, the Post in any country visited on the trip (including Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Qatar), the Office of the Secretary, P, D, and US Special Representative Brian Hook, as well as the Office of Diplomatic Security and S/ES-EX.

This request includes, but is not limited to briefing papers, action or info memos, emails, electronic messages (including, but not limited to, both government and commercial/personal email accounts, text messages, or messaging apps such as WhatsApp, Signal, and/or Telegram), but excludes documents the sole content of which is press clippings. Any forwarding of, or additional content added by a sender or receiver to an email containing press clippings would, however, render the document responsive to this request.

I thank you for your prompt response.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL

Chairman